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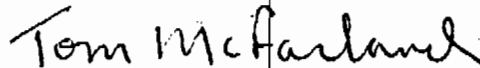
September 3, 2008

By fax to 202-245-0454

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. AB-497 (Sub-No. 4X), *Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc. --*
      Abandonment Exemption -- in Norman County, MN

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Hereby transmitted is a copy of a Comment by the Minnesota Historical Society, State
Historic Preservation Office, on the Draft Historic Report in the above proceeding.

Very truly yours,

Tom McFarland

Thomas F. McFarland

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cc: Mr. George LaPray - please provide to Mr. Gimmestad what is known about the
                        historical significance of the rail line proposed for abandonment.

**Minnesota
Historical Society**
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

August 29, 2008

Mr. Thomas F. McFarland
208 S. LaSalle St., Ste. 1890
Chicago, IL 60604-1112

RE: Minnesota Northern Railroad; Abandon 19.2 mile portion of Perley Subdivision between
     milepost 40.2 at the north end of the Marsh River Bridge south of Shel and end of track at
     milepost 21.0 at or near Perley
     STB Docket No. AB- 497 (Sub-No. 4X)
     Norman County
     SHPO Number: 2008-2854

Dear Mr. McFarland:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed
pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic
Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
(36CFR800).

The submittal discusses the National Register eligibility of the bridges on the rail line, but it does not
address the significance of the line itself.   An evaluation of the significance of the line is needed in
order to complete the Section 106 review.

Contact us at 651-259-3455 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance Officer